



New Grant Opportunities

Virtual Arts Experience Grants

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is working to help Iowa educators and families learn creatively this fall by promoting access to educational resources in arts, culture, history and film.

As part of this effort, the Iowa Arts Council is proud to share a new grant funding and professional development opportunity. **Virtual Arts Experience Grants** support the creation and presentation of innovative online arts activities, performances and educational content that promote learning, engagement and greater equity in the arts for Iowans.

Additionally, grantees will be able to participate in one or more training opportunities designed to help educators build skills, develop online instructional materials and resources, and increase online student engagement and learning.

The program is made possible by an annual appropriation from the Iowa Legislature and by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and replaces School Arts Experience grants for fiscal year 2021.

Strengthening Community Grants

The **Strengthening Community Grant** program supports rural Iowa communities by investing in infrastructure projects for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility initiatives.

Eligible projects involve the renovation or maintenance of existing facilities that are located in cities with a population of less than 28,000.

Funding for the program is made possible through an appropriation by the Iowa Legislature to the Iowa Department of Cultural

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, beginning **Oct. 1**, until program funds are exhausted.

Pictured, above: American Midwest Ballet in Council Bluffs

[LEARN MORE](#)

Affairs through the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund.

The application deadline is **Nov. 20**.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Poetry Out Loud Update

Just Announced: Poetry Out Loud in Iowa will move to a virtual format in 2021.

With this change, virtual regional competitions will be expanded, providing multiple avenues for students to participate through their schools or on their own.

Poetry Out Loud encourages teachers to integrate the program into their class curriculum and to host a school competition. Participating teachers will receive a stipend.

See the Poetry Out Loud Participation Guide to [learn more](#).

Pictured: 2020 participant Makayla Wallerich, left, of Iowa City and 2020 State Champion Amya Thornton of Cedar Falls



[LEARN MORE](#)



Romare Howard Bearden (American, 1911-1988)
"Blues from the Old Country, 1974"
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections

[LEARN MORE](#)

'Black Stories' Opens Oct. 3 at Des Moines Art Center

Drawing from the Des Moines Art Center's permanent collections, "Black Stories" features a compelling mix of works by a wide range of nationally and internationally known artists, including Jean-Michel Basquiat and Kerry James Marshall; Jamaica-born Ebony G. Patterson; and Central Iowa-based artists Jordan Weber and Mitchell Squire, who also serve as co-curators. The Des Moines Art Center is a Cultural Leadership Partner.

Iowa Creative Incubator

With support from an Iowa Arts Council Arts Project Grant, Mainframe Studios in Des Moines launched the [Iowa Creative Incubator](#) to forge pathways between artists and businesses to build more collaborative, vibrant and connected communities. The program focuses on artists who are rooted in social engagement and looking to expand their practice to include commercial/public projects. The application deadline is Oct. 5.



[APPLY](#)

New Tours Featured on Iowa Culture app

Download the free Iowa Culture app and discover more than 3,500 arts and culture landmarks across all 99 counties. Just in time for fall, enjoy two specially curated tours of the [Grant Wood Scenic Byway](#) in eastern Iowa and the [Loess Hills National Scenic Byway](#) in western Iowa, each filled with public artwork, cultural attractions and more. You may also enjoy the tour featuring the ["20 Artists, 20 Parks"](#) project to celebrate the 100th anniversary for Iowa's state parks.



[LEARN MORE](#)



[LEARN MORE](#)

STEM-to-STEAM Program Educator Award

If you're a PreK-12 educator, you can apply to participate in the 2020-2021 STEM Scale-up Program, a professional development program offered from Jan. 21 through March 2 to help students learn through STEM education. Public and private school teachers, youth organization leaders, informal education professionals, home school associations and others who deliver STEM education programs are eligible to apply.

Buy (and Sell) Local with ShopIowa.com

A new online marketplace called ShopIowa.com from the Iowa Economic Development Authority helps Iowa businesses with a retail storefront sell their goods and services online through next June. Iowa artists can learn how to register for the new service at [ShopIowa.com](https://shopiowa.com).



[LEARN MORE](#)



[LEARN MORE](#)

Emergency Relief Fund

The National Independent Venues Association is launching an [Emergency Relief Fund](#) in concert with the Giving Back Fund to grant money to some of the most vulnerable live-music venues. The initial application period starts Sept. 24 and continues through Oct. 11.

COMING UP

Grants

- Open: [Virtual Arts Experience Grant](#)
- Open: [Coronavirus Relief Fund Registered Apprenticeship Expansion Grant Opportunities](#)
- Oct. 1: [USArtists International Support Amid Covid-19](#)
- Oct. 1: [CDBG Water/Sewer](#)
- Oct. 1: [National Trust Preservation Funds](#)
- Oct. 11: [NiVA Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- Oct. 15: [Rural Housing Assessment Grant](#)
- Oct. 15: [Iowa Living Roadways Community Visioning Grant](#)
- Nov. 2: [Performing Arts JAPAN](#)
- Nov. 2: [Historic Preservation Tax Credit](#)
- Nov. 17: [The Hopper Prize](#)

Calls for Artists

- Oct. 2: [Light Valley Junction](#)
- Oct. 4: [Paperworks VII](#)
- Oct. 6: [Chelsea International Fine Art Competition](#)
- Oct. 7: [Embracing Our Differences](#)
- Oct. 9: [Marshalltown Downtown Interactive Mural](#)
- Oct. 10: [Contemporary Portraiture: Redefining the Figure](#)
- Oct. 11: [Imagine Museum](#)
- Oct. 13: [VAST Art Magazine](#)
- Oct. 24: [New York Mills Arts Retreat](#)
- Oct. 30: [Contemporary Venice 2020](#)
- Oct. 30: [West Des Moines Public Art Advisory Commission](#)

Nov. 20: [Strengthening Community Grant](#)

Professional Development

Oct. 1: [2021 Harpo Fellowship](#)

Oct. 3-4: ["Writing Screenplays That Sell" Workshop](#)

Oct. 5: [Virtual Learning through the Arts Panel](#)

Oct. 6-9: [Arts Midwest + Western Arts Alliance 2020 Conference](#)

Oct. 8: [What You Need to Know About The Artist Visa Application](#)

Oct. 11: [The Curating Collage Workshop](#)

Oct. 15: [Become a Visioning Community](#)

Oct. 15-17: [Iowa Dance Festival 2020](#)

Oct. 23: [Iowa Creative Places Exchange](#)

Oct. 26: [World Alliance for Arts Education Virtual Seminar](#)

Nov. 18- 21: [2020 National Guild for Community Arts Education Conference](#)

Nov. 20: [Advancing Capital Infrastructure Projects During a Period of Uncertainty](#)

Nov. 23: [Catalytic Fundraising in the Pandemic Era](#)

Nov. 30: [Create! Magazine International Virtual Exhibition](#)

Dec. 1: [The Painting Center](#)

Dec. 8: [Invitational Sculpture Exhibition](#)

Dec. 31: [#CreateBecauseWeCare](#)

Dec. 31: ["How's the weather here there?"](#)

Community Events

Oct. 2-4: [23rd Annual Northeast Iowa Artists' Studio Tour](#)

Oct. 3-4: [Fall Arts & Crafts Festival, McGregor](#)

Oct. 9-11: [Scenic Drive Festival, Van Buren County](#)

Oct. 10-11: [Leaf Arts & Crafts Festival, McGregor](#)

Oct. 30-31: [Witching Hour, Iowa City](#)

Student Opportunities

Dec. 1: [One Earth Award](#)

Dec. 4: [ULI Student Urban Design Competition](#)

Dec 6: [Hispanic Heritage Foundation's Youth Awards](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

